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Simple Pleasures For All Seasons

Catoctin Mountain Park was created during the Great Depression of the 1930s as a place for people to reconnect with nature. Today the park remains true to its origins—and takes on new significance as new generations discover fiery autumn leaves, jewel-like spring wildflowers, a stream flowing through a blanket of snow, and a hike through the woods to a spectacular valley view.

At Home in the Mountains

Long before the arrival of Europeans, small tribes of American Indians farmed, hunted, fished, and quarried stone. In 1732 settlers began to arrive in Maryland's Monocacy valley. By then, Catoctin was neutral ground where no American Indians lived permanently and were seldom seen. The name "Catoctin" probably came from the Kittoctons, who lived nearby.

The first pioneers were second-generation Americans and German immigrants. They came west from Philadelphia across the Susquehanna River, then southwest. They settled along the Monocacy because of Lord Baltimore's attractive offer of 200 acres of land rent-free for three years and one cent per

acre each year thereafter. In the mid-1800s more Germans and some Swiss and Scotch-Irish came to the area.

At first settlers found enough natural resources to make an adequate living. Many families established farms in the high valleys. Today you can see stone fences, cellar pits, and other remnants as you walk through the forest. Other settlers harvested oak and chestnut bark, rich sources of tannin, and supplied it to the developing tanneries in the Monocacy valley.

The discovery of hematite (iron) in the region spawned a new industry—iron production. The Catoctin iron furnace was built in the 1770s and operated for well over a hundred years. Its



chief products were stoves, wheel rims, cannons and shot, and cast pieces for machinery.

There were founders, molders, finishers, miners, woodcutters, charcoal makers (colliers), and teamsters working here. Enslaved and free African Americans worked skilled and unskilled jobs. Today you can see

the remains of the furnace in Cunningham Falls State Park.

Over the years clear-cutting for charcoal making, stripping of bark for tanning, and logging depleted the natural resources. It became harder for people to eke out a living, and many moved

away. One of the last money-making products was whiskey. Transporting bulky corn and rye grains through the mountains to market had always proved troublesome and expensive. In the 1700s farmers began to distill grain to alcohol, which earned them a much greater profit.

Taxes—and later Prohibition laws in the 1920s—forced the bootleggers into hiding. A 1929 raid on the Blue Blazes still, where a deputy sheriff was killed, spelled the much publicized end of large-scale "moonshine" making. The Blue Blazes Whiskey Still Trail leads you to a replica of a typical farm still.



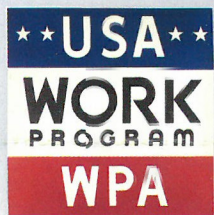
Left to right: Chimney Rock; Catoctin iron furnace; whiskey jug.

LEFT TO RIGHT: NPS / MARK MUSE; THIRDMOUNT HISTORICAL SOCIETY; MUSEUM OF THE SHEMANDOAH VALLEY / RON BLUNT

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A Natural Setting Restored

Catoctin Mountain Park got its start during the Great Depression. In 1935 the federal government bought over 10,000 acres and developed it as the Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA). The program



created public parks out of marginal farmland near cities. Forty-six RDAs were created in 24 states, and most eventually became state or national parks. In 1936 the Works Progress Administration (WPA), another New Deal agency, hired hundreds of local men to build maintenance shops, a visitor

center, picnic areas, and cabin camps. The park's chestnut and oak trees were the ideal "log cabin" material for the rustic architecture.

In 1939 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) set up camp at today's Round Meadow. Their job was to return the depleted Catoctin landscape to

native Eastern hardwood forest. They planted trees, turned old farmland into meadows, and restored streams to their "natural" flow—all of which encouraged the return of native species. The CCC also built roads, trails, guardrails, stone walls, and shelters. The camp closed in 1941, on the eve of our entry into World War II.

The park was drafted into the war effort as a rehabilitation center for sailors and marines and a training facility for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). President Franklin D. Roosevelt chose Camp Hi-Catoctin as a retreat he called Shangri-La. It was renamed Camp David in the 1950s by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Camp David is not open to the public.

In 1954 the park was divided along Md. Rte. 77. To the north is Catoctin Mountain Park, which remains in the National Park System. To the south is Cunningham Falls State Park, managed by the Maryland Park Service.



The 1960s revived the spirit of the CCC when Camp Round Meadow became the nation's first Job Corps center. The program started by President Lyndon B. Johnson continues around the nation today, combining work, education, and recreation for disadvantaged youth.

Left to right: WPA poster; CCC trail crew, 1930s; dogwood blossoms.

LEFT TO RIGHT: NATIONAL ARCHIVES; NPS; VISUALS UNLIMITED

Activities for Everyone

Catoctin Mountain Park is full of stories, best told via its 25 miles of trails. Old stone fences, logging roads, charcoal-making exhibits, and high valley vistas tell us how people once valued this land for its commercial resources. Trails through the regrowth of red oaks, birches, dogwoods, and maples, and other trees remind us that nature brings us wealth by simply being itself.

Trails vary from the quarter-mile wheelchair-accessible Spicebush trail to the strenuous three-mile climb to Chimney Rock overlook. About six miles of trail are designated for horse use. For detailed trail descriptions, check at the visitor center or visit www.nps.gov/cato.

Three cabin camps offer accommodations for one or more nights. Misty Mount and Greentop



were built in the 1930s. Cabin sizes vary from three- to twelve-person capacity. There are centrally located bathrooms and dining halls. Round Meadow has more modern facilities and can be used in all seasons. Round Meadow and Greentop are wheelchair accessible.

Big Hunting Creek has long been popular among fly fishermen. In fact, it is the first stream

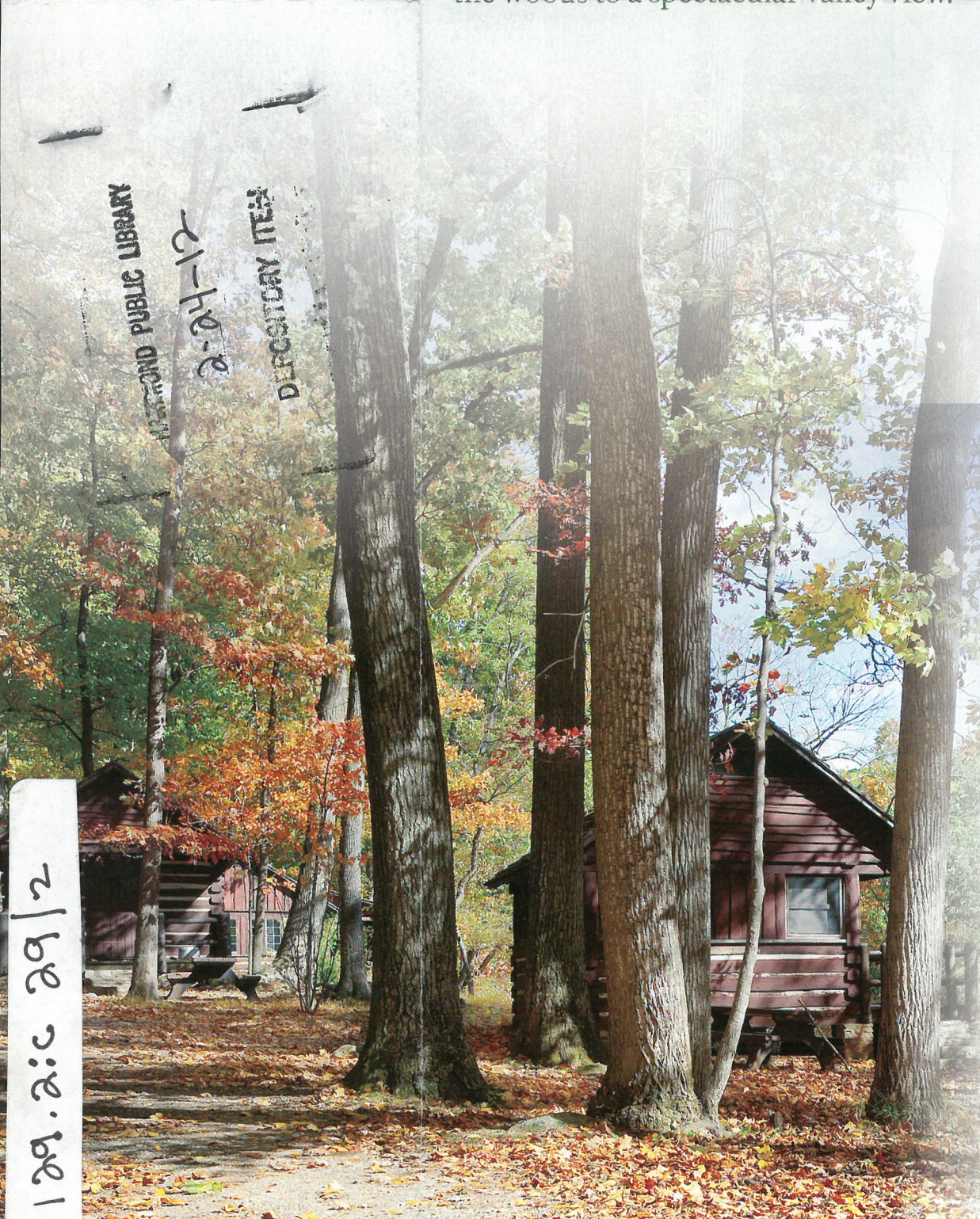
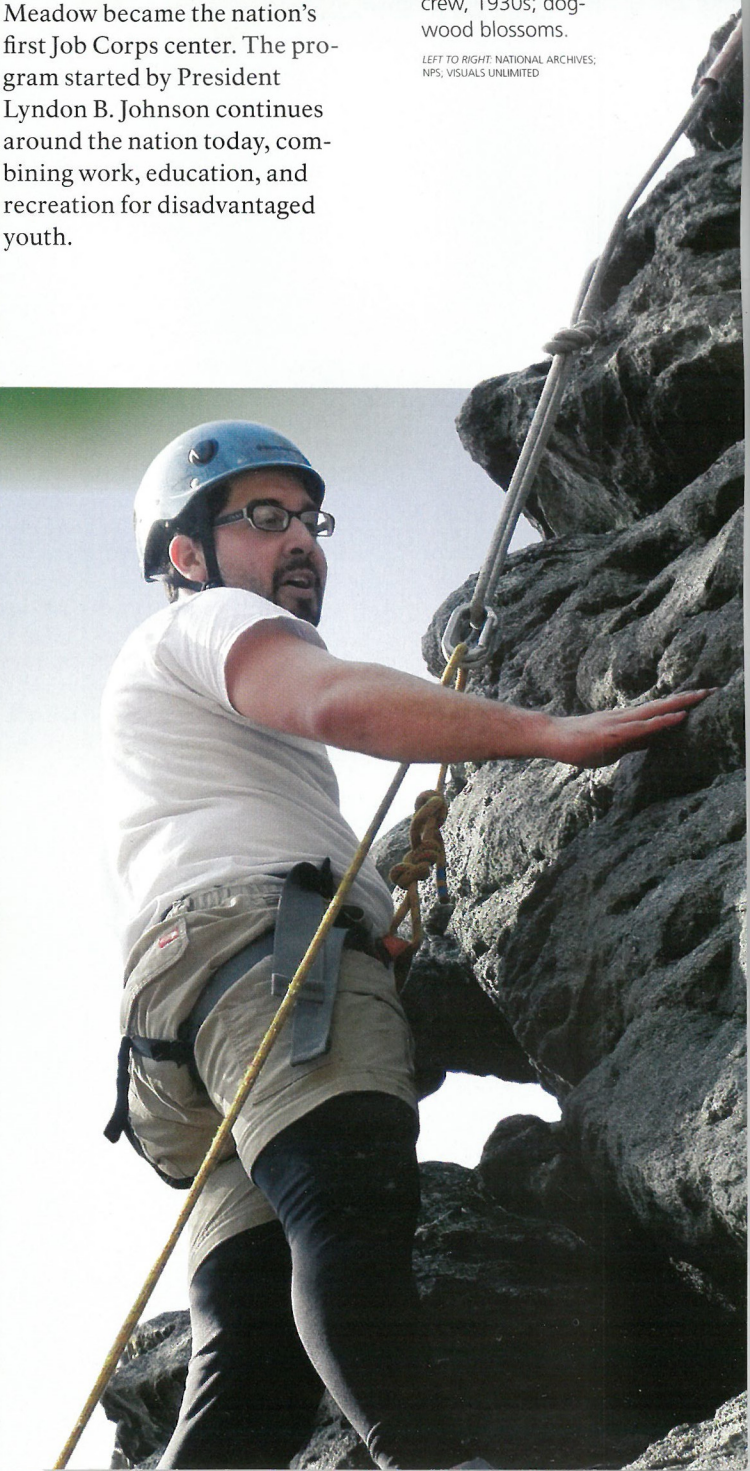
in Maryland designated as fly-fishing-only stream and the first catch-and-release trout stream. State fishing regulations apply.

In winter, some sections of park roads are closed to vehicular traffic and opened for winter recreation. Most park trails are narrow, steep and rocky, but a few sections are good for skiing. A base of six to eight inches of snow is needed for safe trail skiing. Keep in mind that all trails are designated as foot trails, not ski trails.

Rock climbing and rappelling are allowed only by permit.

Left to right: Camp Misty Mount; cross-country skier; camper and counselor at Camp Greentop; rock climber.

LEFT TO RIGHT: NPS / MARK MUSE; STOCKPHOTO / DAN DRIEDGER; THE GAZETTE / TOM FEDOR; NPS



Chimney Rock overlook

A rustic wooden water wheel with a large metal bucket, situated in a wooded area with fallen leaves on the ground.

Blue Blazes whiskey still
NPS / MARK MUEE

Camp Misty Mount
NPS / MARK MUISE

Environmental education program

A black bear is shown resting on a large, weathered log in a forest. The bear is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. Its fur is dark and appears slightly damp or matted. The background is a soft-focus view of a wooded area with trees and undergrowth.

Be bear aware

A group of six children, three girls and three boys, are walking in a snowy forest. They are all wearing winter coats, hats, and backpacks. The ground is covered in snow, and the trees are bare and covered in snow. The children are walking in a line, and the scene is bright and sunny.

Winter hiking

CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK
(National Park Service)

CUNNINGHAM FALLS STATE PARK
(Maryland Park Service)

Legend:

- Hiking trail
- Horse and hiking trail
- Steep trail; arrows point uphill
- Overlook
- Unpaved road
- Catoctin National Recreation Trail:
 - hiking trail
 - horse and hiking trail
- Parking
- Ranger station
- Picnic area
- Cabin camp
- Wheelchair-accessible
- Public campground
- Sleeping shelter

Scale: 0 to 1 Kilometer / 0 to 1 Mile

North Arrow

Inset Map: Shows the location of Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park within Maryland and surrounding areas.

Key Features:

- Owens Creek:** 1300ft / 396m
- Cunningham Falls:** 1880ft / 573m
- Hog Rock:** 1610ft / 491m
- Blue Ridge Summit Overlook:** 1520ft / 463m
- Thurmont Vista:** 1499ft / 457m
- Wolf Rock:** 1401ft / 427m
- Chimney Rock:** 1419ft / 432m
- Catoctin Mountain Park Headquarters:** 840ft / 256m
- Visitor Center:** 920ft / 280m
- William Houck Area:** 1765ft / 538m
- Manor Area:** 495ft / 151m
- Catoctin Furnace:** 151m

Other Features:

- Deerfield Nature Trail Loop**
- Owens Creek Browns Farm Trail**
- Round Meadow**
- Greentop**
- Chestnut Spicebush Nature Trail** (wheelchair-accessible trail)
- Hog Rock Nature Trail**
- Misty Mount Cabins**
- Blue Blazes Whiskey Still**
- Charcoal Trail**
- Thurmont Vista**
- Wolf Rock**
- Chimney Rock**
- Catoctin Mountain Park Headquarters**
- Visitor Center**
- William Houck Area**
- Store**
- Contact Station**
- Boat launch**
- Fishing pier**
- Cunningham Falls State Park Administrative Office**
- Campground registration**
- Dump station**
- Snack bar**
- Boys' Hill**
- Manor Area**
- Visitor Center**
- Scales and Tales Aviary**
- Catoctin Furnace Trail**
- pedestrian bridge over road**
- Catoctin Iron Furnace**
- Catoctin Furnace**

Notes:

- Park Central Road is closed for 2.5 miles from the visitor center for winter recreation mid-December to mid-March.